AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1 – 13 (Cancelled)

14. (New) A process for preparing a tripeptide, including a salt thereof, of the formula (I)

Ac-D-2Nal-D-4ClPhe-D-3Pal-OH (I)

or (IX)

Boc-D-2Nal-D-4ClPhe-D-3Pal-OH (IX),

comprising the following consecutive steps for the preparation of (I):

(a) Reacting Boc-D-4ClPhe-OH with HONSu to form

Boc-D-4ClPhe-OSu (VII);

(b) Reacting Boc-D-4ClPhe-OSu (VII) with H-D-3Pal-OH to form

Boc-D-4ClPhe-D-3Pal-OH (VIII);

(c) Reacting Boc-D-4ClPhe-D-3Pal-OH (VIII) with Boc-D-2Nal-

OSu prepared by reacting Boc-D-2Nal-OH with HONSu to form Boc-D-2Nal-D-4ClPhe-D-3Pal-OH (IX);

(d) Reacting Boc-D-2Nal-D-4ClPhe-D-3Pal-OH (IX) with acetic

acid to form Ac-D-2Nal-4ClPhe-D-3Pal-OH (I);

or the consecutive steps (a) through (c) for the preparation of (IX).

15. (New) A process for preparing an LHRH antagonist or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, comprising coupling a tripeptide Ac-D-2Nal-D-4ClPhe-D-3Pal-OH (I) prepared according to the process of claim 14 with a heptapeptide (IV) of the general formula

P^1-Ser(P^2)-AA1-AA2-Leu-Lys(iPr,P^4)-Pro-D—AlaNH_2 (IV),

wherein P^1 is selected from H or amino protecting group, P^2 is H or OH-protecting group, P^4 is H or an amino protecting group such as Boc, AA1 is natural or synthetic amino acid and AA2 is natural or synthetic amino acid or zero.

16. (New) The process of claim 15, wherein the heptapeptide of the general formula (IV) is a heptapeptide of the general formula

P^1-Ser(P^2)-NMeTyr(P^3)-D-Lys(Nic)-Leu-Lys(iPr,P^4)-Pro-D—AlaNH_2 (V)

wherein P^3 is H or –OH protecting group.

17. (New) The process of claim 15, wherein the heptapeptide of the general formula (IV) is a heptapeptide of the general formula

P^1-Ser(P^2)-NMeTyr(P^3)-D-Asn-Leu-Lys(iPr,P^4)-Pro-D—AlaNH_2 (Va).

wherein P^3 is H or –OH protecting group.

18. (New) The process of claim 16, wherein the heptapeptide of the general formula (V) is a heptapeptide of the formula

H-Ser(tBu)-NMeTyr-D-Lys(Nic)-Leu-Lys(iPr,Boc)-Pro-D—AlaNH_2 (VI).

19. (New) The process of claim 17, wherein the heptapeptide of the formula (VI) is a heptapeptide of the formula

H-Ser(tBu)-NMeTyr-D-Asn-Leu-Lys(iPr,Boc)-Pro-D—AlaNH_2 (VIa).

20. (New) A process for preparing an LHRH antagonist or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, comprising coupling the tripeptide Boc-D-2Nal-D-4ClPhe-D-3Pal-OH (IX) prepared by the process of claim 14.

with a heptapeptide (IV) of the general formula

P^1-Ser(P^2)-AA1-AA2-Leu-Lys(iPr,P^4)-Pro-D—AlaNH$_2$ (IV),

wherein P^1 is selected from H or amino protecting group, P^2 is H or OH-protecting group, P^4 is H or amino protecting group such as Boc, AA1 is a natural or synthetic amino acid and AA2 is a natural or synthetic amino acid or zero.

21. (New) The process of claim 20, wherein the heptapeptide of the general formula (IV) is a heptapeptide (V) of the general formula

P^1-Ser(P^2)-NMeTyr(P^3)-D-Lys(Nic)-Leu-Lys(iPr,P^4)-Pro-D—AlaNH$_2$ (V)

wherein P^3 is H or OH-protecting group.

22. (New) The process of claim 21, wherein the heptapeptide of the general formula (V) is the heptapeptide

H-Ser(tBu)-NMeTyr-D-Lys(Nic)-Leu-Lys(iPr,Boc)-Pro-D—AlaNH$_2$ (VI).

23. (New) The process of claim 20, wherein the heptapeptide of the general formula (IV) is a heptapeptide of the general formula

P^1-Ser(P^2)-NMeTyr(P^3)-D-Asn-Leu-Lys(iPr,P^4)-Pro-D—AlaNH$_2$ (Va),

followed by substituting the Boc group by an acyl group, in particular an acetyl group.

24. (New) The process of claim 23, wherein the heptapeptide of the general formula (IV) is the heptapeptide

H-Ser(tBu)-NMeTyr-D-Asn-Leu-Lys(iPr,Boc)-Pro-D—AlaNH$_2$ (VIa),

followed by substituting the N-terminal Boc group by an acyl group, in particular an acetyl group.

25. (New) The tripeptide Ac-D-2Nal-D-4ClPhe-D-3Pal-OH (I) or a salt thereof prepared by the process of claim 14.

26. (New) The tripeptide Boc-D-2Nal-D-4ClPhe-D-3Pal-OH (IX) or a salt thereof prepared by the process of claim 14.